Appl. No. 10/073,903
Amendment dated July 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2005

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REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 7 - 10 remain pending and have been amended to clarify that which Applicants regard as the invention. The invention is directed to customizing a dictionary used for speech recognition. During customization, word information contained in the user profile (28) is extracted from a word dictionary (18) to create a user's word dictionary (29). See page 35, lines 6-9 of the specification. Sentence templates stored in the translation database for customization are used with words contained in the user's word dictionary to generate a sentence for user voice recognition, which sentences are stored in the sentence dictionary customized for each user (19). See page 35, line 19- page 36, line 14, for example. In this way, a new customized sentence is generated by inserting at least one of the words in the user-specific vocabulary into a slot of a sentence template and the customized sentence is stored in a dictionary. The customized sentence stored in the dictionary is used for recognizing speech input by the user by collating the user's speech input with the customized sentence, as set forth in claims 7 and 10, as amended. See pages 19 and 20 of the specification.

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35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, however Applicants have amended claim 7 and request reconsideration of the rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 7 is directed to statutory subject matter since the claim sets forth a method of customizing a dictionary used for speech recognition that includes specific steps for extracting user-specific vocabulary from a set of registered user profile information. Applicants describe in the specification that a user profile may be registered via an internet access network, for example, and have a data structure as shown in Figure 18. See page 33, lines 3-4 of the specification, for example. Claim 7 further includes generating a new customized sentence by inserting at least one word in the user-specific vocabulary into a slot of a sentence template and storing the customized sentence into the dictionary, in combination with using the stored customized sentence for recognizing speech input by a user by collating the user's speech input with the customized sentence. Accordingly, claim 7 is directed to statutory subject matter and the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 7-10 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection. In particular, the phrase "replaceable section", which was found to be indefinite, has been deleted thereby rendering the rejection moot.

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35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by

Satoh, U.S. Patent No. 5,774,671 (Satoh). Reconsideration of the rejection is

requested for the following reasons.

As amended, the claims set forth that a customized sentence is generated by

inserting a word of user-specific vocabulary into a slot of a sentence template. The

customized sentence is stored in the dictionary and is used for speech recognition

for the user in a process of collating the user's speech input with the customized

sentence. Thus, the invention as claimed differs from Satoh.

Satoh discloses a system providing information to a user in which the user

accesses the information center by using a terminal. The user is introduced to

services provided by the information server according to registered profile data for

the user. In this way, customized contents suitable for particular users is provided by

registering profile information in a database. A taste feature which the user is

interested in is extracted from the user profile data in a step shown in Figure 9 (step

S31). However, Satoh does not disclose generating a new customized sentence by

inserting a word in user specific vocabulary that is extracted from a set of registered

user profile information, as claimed by Applicants. Further, the customized sentence

of the present invention has a slot in which the word of the user-specific vocabulary

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is inserted, and the customized sentence is stored in a dictionary according to the present invention, which is not disclosed or suggested by Satoh.
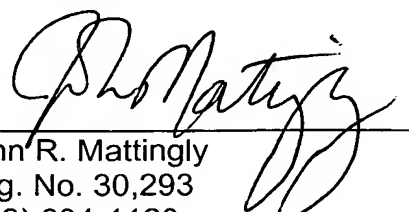
In Satoh, a taste feature extracted from profile information is compared with a dictionary, as shown in Figure 9, to determine whether an appropriate word is present. If the word is present, a dictionary pattern including the appropriate word is extracted in step S34, and is registered in the database for taste feature members corresponding to the users. However, the result in Satoh is different from that of the present invention in which a dictionary having customized sentences is created. That is, Satoh does not disclose a sentence template with a slot or disclose or suggest generating a new customized sentence by inserting a word into a slot of a sentence template and storing a customized sentence in a dictionary, as claimed by Applicants. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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